

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, February 19, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell (Feb. 19, 1879.)

My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am so sorry that a long silence should have alarmed you. We have been going on with come ups and downs pretty well and there has not been much to write about. But, I did send a note to you at Kingston, addressed simply to Mr. Bell's care. I hope it reached you all right. Alec is sway at Boston again for the third, and I hope the last time. Elsie is doing famously, bright and fat and rosy. Her teeth have not troubled her since just after you left, and I am satisfied to see her so well and do not think of the future. She goes out to ride every pleasant day, that is almost every day and as she is free of the house her bedroom is aired every day. I am getting anxious for warm weather to come so I can put her on the floor, at present it is too cold and the house too draughty.

We had heard before of Col. Home's death as Mr. Home had written to Mamma. Mr. Home and the "Times" he sent, both said the death was caused by Typhus fever from which overwork had left him no strength to rally. Both the Times and the Daily Telegraph which had a long editorial on him, spoke in the highest terms of his character and services. Mr. Home's letter was a most manly one, and shown such deep feeling.

We are in a state of transition just now as both my servants leave me at the end of the month. The parlor girl is the second we have had, but the cook has been with me from the first and that is the trouble. She cannot work well under Miss Home, and though she does 2 not want to go, we think Miss Home will never be comfortable until she does. Then, Carrie must go to make a clean sweep, so Miss Home can begin again. My new cook is a "yellow" girl, the parlor girl is not engaged yet as Alec wanted to have the choosing of her. He doesn't think my taste in beauty as shown in my two other parlor girls good,

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and wants to see if he can do better. He thinks he chose my pretty Bessie but I think his mistaken. Miss Home, I am sorry to say, is not nearly so well as when you sent her to me, the servants have worried her so, but we hope things will be better now. About Mr. Fluker, you and Mr. David Bell seen to forget that it is not the present Mr. Fluker she blames, but his father. All I know about his care of her is that I don't think he might have spun out her payment of her debt to his a little longer, so as to allow her more money at a time. But I don't think it much good worrying ourselves about the matter any more. The poor man is dead, and his son seems well-meaning and honest.

We are so glad to hear that you and Mr. Bell had a little gayety at Kingston and enjoyed it. Alec and I were to have gone to a large party at Mrs. Pollak's last night, but Alec went off and I did not want to be thought to be separated from his and so staid at home. On Saturday there will be a large reception at Mrs. Blaine's, the wife of the possible next president, and we are invited. If we go, I shall wear my wedding gown and feel very fine. The end of the season is approaching fast now. With love to Mr. Bell and the Misses Symonds.

Affectionately, Feb. 19th, (1879). May Bell.